



Guidance for Funerals

The CDC and NFDA (National Funeral Directors Association) have released guidelines to provide information about funerals and visitation services. They also released specific guidance for funeral directors on how to safely care for people who have died from a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.

For Families

- Funerals or visitations may be held, however they must be limited to no more than 10 people and/or held virtually
- Limit attendance to select family and livestream the services for those that can't attend
- Those that are ill or high-risk (elderly or underlying health conditions) should stay home
- Practice social distancing during services. Try not to hug, kiss, or sit close to loved ones
- Consider holding a larger memorial gathering at a later date
- If you go to a funeral or visitation service for someone who has died of COVID-19, you are not at risk of exposure. However, since we are still learning about how the virus spread, we recommend not touching the body if there is an open casket
- Some religious and cultural practices have more contact with the body of a deceased loved one (such as washing or shrouding). These families are encouraged to work with their cultural or religious leaders and funeral homes to reduce the chance of the virus possibly spreading as much as possible

For Funeral Home Workers

- A funeral or visitation service can be held for a person who has died of COVID-19
- Funeral home workers should follow their routine infection prevention and control measures when handling a decedent who has died of COVID-19
- If you need to transfer a body to a bag, follow standard procedures and wear additional personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Before transporting the bag, disinfect the outside of the bag with an EPA-approved disinfectant product
- Embalming can be conducted, but use additional PPE (gown, face shield, and facemask). You should also wear the appropriate respiratory protection if any procedures will generate aerosols
- Wear heavy duty gloves over nitrile disposable gloves if there is a risk of cuts, puncture wounds, or other injuries
- After cleaning and removal of PPE, thoroughly wash your hands for 20 seconds
- Decedents with COVID-19 can be buried or cremated



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